

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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CHIEF JUSTICE MAURA D. CORRIGAN APPLAUDS INCREASE IN JUROR COMPENSATION

LANSING, MI, December 17, 2002 – Legislation that will raise juror fees as of October 1, 2003 was applauded by Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan today.

“On behalf of Michigan’s ‘One Court of Justice,’ I thank the Legislature for enacting Senate Bill 1448, which raises the amount Michigan citizens will receive for jury service,” Corrigan said.

“Under current law, jurors receive a minimum of \$15 per day and \$7.50 per half day for each day of attendance at court. This level of compensation, which has been in place since 1968, is often cited by jurors as a hardship. For many jurors, the compensation they receive does not even cover the cost of parking,” the Chief Justice noted.

SB 1448 provides that, for the first day of jury service, jurors will receive not less than \$25 per day and \$12.50 per half day. For each subsequent day, jurors will receive not less than \$40 per day and \$20 per half day, the bill provides.

“This more realistic level of compensation will, the Court hopes, reduce hardships and inconvenience for Michigan jurors,” Corrigan said.

The bill also disqualifies individuals who have been convicted of felonies from jury service. Under current law, the disqualification only covers persons under sentence for a felony at the time of jury selection.

The Chief Justice added, “I would also like to take this opportunity to say how much the Court values and depends upon Michigan citizens’ jury service. The constitutional right to trial by jury would be meaningless if the people of Michigan did not take the time – in many cases, at considerable inconvenience – to serve as jurors. Jurors are indeed at the heart of our justice system.

“Once again, my thanks to the Legislature, and to the people of Michigan.”

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